

(a) whether Government propose to purchase B-737 aircraft and if so, when and the number of such aircrafts to be purchased;

(b) whether with these new aircrafts, Government propose to provide an air connection for Rajkot with Delhi via Udai-pur or Ahmedabad or Vadodara, if so, when; and

(c) whether a recent special study has established that such a connection would be justifiable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). No, Sir. It is proposed to lease some aircraft till Airbus A-320 aircraft become available in 1990.

The recent survey of traffic potential of Saurashtra region indicate that there is traffic affinity between Saurashtra and Delhi and the highest traffic from a single station in the region is estimated to be from Rajkot. Indian Airlines will consider providing Rajkot-Delhi airlink once additional aircraft capacity is inducted into its fleet.

[Translation]

#### **Spread of Filaria in Maharashtra**

\*864. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that filaria has spread in epidemic form in Maharashtra and more than one lakh persons are suffering from filaria there;

(b) whether any team of doctors has been sent there to assess the situation and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of patients provided medical aid and the number of those who are yet to be provided medical aid; and

(d) whether filaria is an incurable disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d) Filaria, which is a debilitating disease, is caused by infection by a parasite transmitted through Culex mosquitoes. It is curable if detected and treated sufficiently early. There are no reports and indications that this disease is spreading in an epidemic form in Maharashtra. However, 14 control units from 9 (nine) districts in Maharashtra have been reporting incidence of filaria. The total number of affected persons is estimated to be around 0.73 million micro-filaria carriers and 0.14 million persons with disease manifestations.

[English]

#### **Schemes for Development of Champakara and Cochin-Udyogmandal Canals in Kerala**

\*868. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes proposed for the development of Champakara Canal and Cochin-Udyogmandal Canal in Kerala; and

(b) the time by which these schemes will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The scheme pertaining to Champakara Canal is to widen it to 55 meters from 37 meters and to deepen it to 3.00 meters below water level to make it navigable by 700 Tonne capacity barges. The scheme has been sanctioned involving an expenditure of Rs 155.25 lakhs

The scheme for improvement of Cochin-Udyogmandal Canal envisages